



TREASURE VALLEY

ADA, ADAMS, BOISE, CANYON, ELMORE, GEM, OWYHEE, PAYETTE, VALLEY, & WASHINGTON COUNTIES

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The Boise City Metropolitan Statistical Area's (MSA) average annual unemployment rate for October 2003 was 5.0 percent, as shown in Treasure Valley Table 1. This was three-tenths of a percentage point below the September 2003 rate of 5.3 percent and six-tenths of a percentage point below the October 2002 rate of 5.6 percent. Month-over-month, the number of employed persons increased by 1,300, or 0.6 percent, from September 2003 and the number of unemployed individuals decreased by 700 individuals, or 5.3 percent. The increasing number of persons employed and the decreasing number of persons unemployed created an overall increase of 600 individuals, or 0.2 percent, in the *Civilian Labor Force* from September 2003. Year-over-year, the number of employed persons decreased by 2,400, or 1.0 percent, and the number of unemployed individuals decreased by 1,500 individuals, or 10.8 percent, creating a net decrease in the *Civilian Labor Force* of 3,900 individuals, or 1.6 percent, from October 2002. The *Civilian Labor Force* figures for October

**Treasure Valley Table 2: October 2003
Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Figures for
Southwest Idaho Counties**

	Civilian Labor Force	Number Unem- ployed	Percent Unem- ployed	Number Employed
Ada	176,582	7,336	4.2	169,246
Adams	2,072	475	22.9	1,597
Boise	2,679	186	7.0	2,492
Canyon	70,079	5,086	7.3	64,993
Elmore	9,656	613	6.3	9,043
Gem	5,918	455	7.7	5,463
Owyhee	4,212	82	1.9	4,130
Payette	9,438	956	10.1	8,483
Valley	3,894	330	8.5	3,564
Washington	4,315	631	14.6	3,684
Statewide	689,661	36,876	5.3	652,785

**Treasure Valley Table 1: Boise MSA Labor Force & Employment
Ada and Canyon Counties**

	Oct 2003*	Sept 2003	Oct 2002	% Change Last Month	% Change Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	246,600	246,000	250,500	0.2	-1.6
Unemployment	12,400	13,100	13,900	-5.3	-10.8
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.0	5.3	5.6		
Total Employment	234,200	232,900	236,600	0.6	-1.0
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	244,400	243,900	248,200	0.2	-1.5
Unemployment	11,300	11,900	12,600	-5.0	-10.3
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.6	4.9	5.1		
Total Employment	233,100	232,000	235,600	0.5	-1.1
JOB BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	233,000	230,600	231,200	1.0	0.8
GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES					
Natural Resources & Construction	15,900	15,900	16,300	0.0	-2.5
Manufacturing	30,000	30,300	31,700	-1.0	-5.4
Durable Goods	23,000	23,200	24,600	-0.9	-6.5
Wood Product Manufacturing	1,900	1,900	2,000	0.0	-5.0
Fabricated Metal Products Mfg.	1,400	1,500	1,400	-6.7	0.0
Machinery Manufacturing	1,200	1,200	1,400	0.0	-14.3
Computer & Electronic Manufacturing	14,400	14,400	15,800	0.0	-8.9
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	1,600	1,600	1,600	0.0	0.0
Other Durable Goods	2,500	2,600	2,400	-3.8	4.2
Nondurable Goods	7,000	7,100	7,100	-1.4	-1.4
Food Manufacturing	5,400	5,200	5,300	3.8	1.9
Printing & Related Support Activities	700	700	800	0.0	-12.5
Other Nondurable Goods	900	1,200	1,000	-25.0	-10.0
SERVICE-PROVIDING INDUSTRIES	187,100	184,400	183,200	1.5	2.1
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	45,200	45,200	44,800	0.0	0.9
Trade	38,000	38,100	37,800	-0.3	0.5
Wholesale Trade	10,600	10,700	10,300	-0.9	2.9
Wholesalers, Durable Goods	6,600	6,600	6,400	0.0	3.1
Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	2,800	2,800	3,100	0.0	-9.7
Retail Trade	27,400	27,400	27,500	0.0	-0.4
Food & Beverage Stores	4,100	4,200	4,400	-2.4	-6.8
General Merchandise Stores	6,100	6,000	5,900	1.7	3.4
All Other Retail Trade	17,200	17,200	17,200	0.0	0.0
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	7,200	7,100	7,000	1.4	2.9
Utilities	700	600	700	16.7	0.0
Transportation & Warehousing	6,500	6,500	6,300	0.0	3.2
Information	3,600	3,700	3,600	-2.7	0.0
Telecommunications	1,400	1,400	1,300	0.0	7.7
Financial Activities	12,300	12,300	12,100	0.0	1.7
Finance & Insurance	9,300	9,300	8,900	0.0	4.5
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	3,000	3,000	3,200	0.0	-6.3
Professional & Business Services	34,100	33,500	32,100	1.8	6.2
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	9,400	9,400	10,200	0.0	-7.8
Management of Companies & Ent.	6,800	6,900	6,700	-1.4	1.5
Administrative & Support & Waste Mgmt.	17,900	17,200	15,200	4.1	17.8
Educational & Health Services	28,300	27,800	27,200	1.8	4.0
Educational Services	2,400	2,100	2,200	14.3	9.1
Health Care & Social Assistance	25,900	25,700	25,000	0.8	3.6
Hospitals	9,200	9,000	9,000	2.2	2.2
Leisure & Hospitality	20,000	19,900	19,800	0.5	1.0
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	2,900	2,900	2,400	0.0	20.8
Accommodation & Food Services	17,100	17,000	17,400	0.6	-1.7
Accommodation	2,200	2,000	2,000	10.0	10.0
Food Services & Drinking Places	14,900	15,000	15,400	-0.7	-3.2
Other Services	6,800	6,700	6,700	1.5	1.5
Total Government	36,800	35,300	36,900	4.2	-0.3
Federal Government	5,400	5,500	5,400	-1.8	0.0
State & Local Government	31,400	29,800	31,500	5.4	-0.3
State Government	14,100	13,900	14,300	1.4	-1.4
State Government Education	4,400	4,200	4,700	4.8	-6.4
State Government Administration	9,700	9,700	9,600	0.0	1.0
Local Government	17,300	15,900	17,200	8.8	0.6
Local Government Education	10,300	8,900	9,900	15.7	4.0
Local Government Administration	7,000	7,000	7,300	0.0	-4.1

* Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

2003 for all ten counties in Southwest Idaho are shown in Treasure Valley Table 2 on page 11.

In the Boise City MSA *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* increased by 2,400, or 1.0 percent, from September 2003 to October 2003, while year-over-year, *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* gained 1,800 jobs, or 0.8 percent, in the Boise City MSA. Month-over-month, *Goods-Producing Industries* lost 300 jobs; job decreases were noted in *Fabricated Metal Products Manufacturing* (-100 jobs), *Other Durable Goods Manufacturing* (-100 jobs), and *Other Nondurable Goods Manufacturing* (-300 jobs), while job gains were noted in *Food Products Manufacturing* (200 jobs). Year-over-year, *Goods-Producing Industries* lost 2,100 jobs, with *Other Durable Goods Manufacturing* (100 jobs) and *Food Product Manufacturing* (100 jobs) the only industries to experience job gains. Job losses occurred in *Natural Resources, Mining, & Construction* (-400 jobs), *Wood Product Manufacturing* (-100 jobs), *Machinery Manufacturing* (-200 jobs), *Computer & Electronic Product Manufacturing* (-1,400 jobs), *Printing and Related Support Activities* (-100 jobs), and *Other Nondurable Goods Manufacturing* (-100 jobs).

In *Service-Providing Industries*, jobs gained outweighed jobs lost by 2,700 in the Boise City MSA from September 2003 to October 2003. Job gains were experienced in *General Merchandise Stores* (100 jobs), *Utilities Services* (100 jobs), *Administrative & Support & Waste Management Services* (700 jobs), *Educational Services* (300 jobs), *Health Care & Social Assistance Services* (200 jobs) primarily *Hospitals* (200 jobs), *Accommodation Services* (200 jobs), *Other Services* (100 jobs), *State Government Education* (200 jobs), and *Local Government Education* (1,400 jobs). Job losses occurred in *Wholesale Trade* (-100 jobs), *Food & Beverage Stores* (-100 jobs), *Information* (-100 jobs), *Management of Companies & Enterprises* (-100 jobs), *Food Services & Drinking Places* (-100 jobs), and *Federal Government* (-100 jobs).

Year-over-year, *Service-Providing Industries* gained 3,900 jobs, with job gains noted in *Durable Goods Wholesale Trade* (200 jobs), *General Merchandise Stores* (200 jobs), *Transportation & Warehousing Services* (200 jobs), *Telecommunications Services* (100 jobs), *Finance & Insurance Services* (400 jobs), *Management of Companies & Enterprises* (100 jobs), *Administrative & Support & Waste Management Services* (2,700 jobs), *Educational Services* (200 jobs), *Health Care & Social Assistance Services* (900 jobs) including *Hospitals* (200 jobs), *Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation Services* (500 jobs), *Accommodation Services* (200 jobs), *Other Services* (100 jobs), *State Government Administration* (100 jobs), and *Local Government Education* (400 jobs). Job losses occurred in *Nondurable Goods Wholesale Trade* (-300 jobs), *Food and Beverage Stores* (-300 jobs), *Real Estate & Rental & Leas-*

ing Services (-200 jobs), *Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services* (-800 jobs), *Food Services & Drinking Places* (-500 jobs), *State Government Education* (-300 jobs), and *Local Government Administration* (-300 jobs). The slow growth of jobs over the year is consistent with the downturn and slow recovery that the national economy has been experiencing since January 2001.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Boise City MSA

- A new business assistance program, TEAMS, is being offered free to businesses in Idaho. TEAMS, which stands for TechConnect Entrepreneurship Assistance Methods using Students, is headed by Boise State University (BSU) professor Norris Krueger. The program is designed to help entrepreneurs solve specific business problems while giving university students throughout Idaho hands-on marketing and business experience. Students are already working on semester-long TEAMS projects at BSU, Idaho State University, and BYU-Idaho. TEAMS is a public/private partnership that is supported by BSU, the Idaho Small Business Development Center, the Inland Northwest Research Alliance, the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, the TechConnect centers in Boise, Pocatello, and Post Falls, and Bechtel BWXT Idaho. Entrepreneurs interested in the program can contact Professor Krueger at 426-3573.
- Micron Technology started construction in early November on a new assembly and test facility in Puerto Rico. The 48,000-square-foot building, located in Aguadilla, Puerto Rico, will house advanced technology assembly of DRAM modules and testing for a wide variety of chip modules. The company already has 200 employees working in a temporary facility there.
- Boise Office Equipment announced plans in November to acquire a large amount of Finch-Brown Co., one of its competitors. The company will acquire Finch-Brown's copier, facsimile, and printer division. The acquisition would increase the number of employees by 15 and increase annual revenues by more than a third.
- Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center (St. Al's) recently updated its Life Flight equipment. The updates included the addition of an automated flight tracking system, advanced night-vision goggles, and an upgraded dispatch software system. The new equipment will help pilots and flight nurses better navigate weather, dark-

ness, remote and rugged terrain, and improve ground-to-air communication. St. Al's currently operates three helicopters and a plane.

- NomadISP, a new Boise-based company, recently announced plans to market its services nationally. The company provides wi-fi access areas to remote recreation areas throughout the country. NomadISP's equipment receives signals from a satellite and creates a range where wireless Internet access is available. NomadISP is targeting campgrounds as potential customers. The company hopes to sell its first units by early 2004.
- BoDo Partners announced in early November that Metropolitan Rocky Mountain Resort Cinemas (a joint venture of Metropolitan Theatres of Los Angeles and Rocky Mountain Cinemas of Ketchum) would own and operate the 11-screen, 2,200-seat multiplex, currently under construction at the 8th Street site in downtown Boise. The \$7 million cinema is part of the \$62 million redevelopment effort that includes an 11-story building. A Hampton Inn & Suites Hotel will occupy the top seven floors of the building, which will be located at the corner of Capitol Boulevard and Myrtle Street. Other construction plans for the site include a parking garage, retail establishments, and office space. Construction on the hotel and parking garage is expected to be completed in late 2004, while the theater is slated to open in February 2005.
- Vista Village Shopping Center owners announced in early November that the center would undergo an estimated \$4 million facelift. Plans include revitalizing the center's exterior, building up to 14 apartments, and eventually adding a sit-down restaurant on the northern edge of the property. When finished, the shopping center should resemble a village and each store will have its own, unique storefront. Owners hope to keep current tenants and add additional retailers to the shopping center. No start or completion date for the remodel was announced.
- Taco Del Mar, a Seattle-based food chain, recently announced plans to open its first Boise restaurant in January 2004 with three other restaurants scheduled to open in the Treasure Valley by spring—two in Boise and one in Nampa. Taco Del Mar is known best for its Alaskan codfish tacos and mondo burritos. Taco Del Mar's concept is similar to Pollo Rey, Baja Fresh, and Senor Fresh, which all operate eateries in the Treasure Valley.
- Sandstone Plaza, a commercial center, is planned for the corner of Avenue E and Fourth Street in

Kuna. The 13,900-square-foot King's variety store will be renovated and expanded, and a 6,000-square-foot building for a restaurant and bar will be constructed on the other side of the property. The renovated King's building is scheduled to house a gourmet food firm, a wine business, a wireless Internet provider, and other enterprises. The new building is slated to house the Peregrine Restaurant and a tavern. Plans for the remodel are scheduled to begin March 1, 2004, with the additional construction occurring later.

- A five-story, 92,000-square-foot office building is planned for the Meadow Lake Village senior community center in Meridian. The building is being developed to serve the Meadow Lake Village community and to provide additional medical office space to neighboring St. Luke's. Construction of the \$15 million facility is expected to start in March 2004 and be ready for occupancy by January 2005.
- Roaring Springs Water Park in Meridian announced in late November that it plans to open a new youth attraction—Super Splash City. It will include a new slide complex, a kiddie car wash, a fire station, water tunnels, and fountains. Work has already started on the new attraction, which is scheduled to open in summer 2004.
- Horizon Health announced plans in November to construct a new building on Plaza Drive in the Rocky Mountain Business Park in Eagle. The six-year-old clinic will move from its current location in Meridian. Construction on the new building is expected to begin in January 2004 and will include two or three additional tenants. Horizon Health plans to be relocated to the new facility by September 2004.
- The Swiss Village Cheese Company announced the closing of its restaurant and shop in early November. The closure occurred December 31, 2003. Company officials decided that the café and retail shop were not compatible with the growing focus on cheese production at the plant. The closure affected 24 employees who may go to work in other jobs at the plant. Swiss Village is owned by Sorrento Lactalis.
- In other recent business openings in the Boise City MSA, Washington Trust Bank opened a branch in Garden City; Therapeutic Associates opened an office in Boise; Majestic Videos opened in Boise; Hair Cut Up, a new full-service salon, opened in east Boise; Between Friends, an antiques, collectibles, and crafts store opened in Meridian; Bank of America purchased a pad to build

a branch in the Eagle Town & Country Center in Meridian; Vision First LLC and Group One opened separate real estate offices in the River-shore South Office building in the North Channel Center development in Eagle; LaDon's Fine Jewelry opened in Nampa; Big 5 Sporting Goods opened in Karcher Mall in Nampa; Lochsa Group LLC opened a hardware and building supply distribution business in Nampa.

- In other recent business happenings in the Boise City MSA North American Airlines and HawaiianVacations.com's started nonstop service to Maui in November, (some on the nonstop flights were changed to include a stop in Spokane); Dish Network started offering local television stations through its satellite service to the Treasure Valley; the Koppel Browzeville Building on Fairview in Boise has been sold, although no plans were announced for how the space might be used; Red Flag Medical Clinic moved to a new location on State Street in Boise; Snake River Pool & Spa Inc., Everton Mattress & Furniture, and the Children's Store all moved to the new Orchard Center Mall in Boise; REHABworks, Inc. moved into its new facility to Riverside Drive in Garden City; Rocky Mountain Health & Wellness and Freedom West Mortgage moved into a new facility in Eagle; Group One Inc. is expanding its real estate business to Eagle.

Boise County

- Bogus Basin Mountain Resort opened its new tubing hill in mid-November. The resort also opened the mountain to skiers and snowboarders, but quickly had to close it after a warm front moved into the area. The resort reopened to skiers and snowboarders in mid-December.

Elmore County

- Chef Ron's Catering Service opened at 340 North Second East Street in Mountain Home. The catering service can accommodate dinner for two as well as large parties. Chef Ron's Catering also features a small café where customers can enjoy coffee, tea, and a variety of pastries. Also in the café, there is an area featuring hand-made soaps, bath salts, shower gels, and lotions offered by Just 4 U by PatiSu. The café is opened from 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday.

Payette County

- The new McCain Middle School in Payette held a groundbreaking ceremony in early November.

The school is expected to open shortly after the start of the 2004-2005 school year.

Valley County

- Donnelly voters approved forming a Donnelly fire district—The Donnelly Fire Protection District—which will replace the Donnelly Rural Fire Protection Association. The new district covers 185-square miles and will extend to the Adams County line on the west to a point past Gold Fork Hot Springs on the east, north from Lake Fork Road to a line near Lake Cascade's Sugarloaf Island on the south. The district is split into three sub-districts, which are represented on a new board of commissioners.
- McCall Memorial Hospital officials are currently negotiating with property owners to purchase a Masonic Lodge at the corner of State and Hewett Streets and the Payette Lake Christian Center at the corner of West Lake and State Streets in McCall. The addition of these properties would help the hospital meet future growth and offer additional services. The negotiations continue and no final purchase is scheduled. If a sale occurs, the earliest that remodeling on the properties could start would be in 2006.
- Brundage Mountain Resort opened on November 26 for the 2003-2004 season. The resort is expected to open five new runs this winter.

Washington County

- Voters approved a proposal in November for a new multi-purpose facility for Weiser High School. The \$2.8 million bond will fund the construction of the facility that will include a classroom/instructional area, gym space for physical education classes and extracurricular activities, a wrestling room, a fitness/conditioning room, storage areas, adequate shower and toilet accommodations, and an indoor walking track that will be available to patrons outside of school hours. The new building will be located east of the present high school gym. Construction is scheduled to begin in late June 2004 and should be completed in February 2005.

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